

Stockton Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1895.

Stockton-on-Tees :

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—
1896.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES,

January 30th, 1896.

TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Report for the year 1895, I cannot congratulate you on the extremely low death rate which characterised the year 1894. The District has several times had infectious disease to the extent of an epidemic during the year; but the fatality from infectious diseases has not had such a material effect upon the death rate as the increase of deaths from diseases in other causes.

The Parish Councils in the different Townships have taken great interest in their Sanitary condition, and have suggested several improvements, which your Authority have been pleased to carry out; and I am glad to say that the different Councils have worked amicably together for the public benefit.

The population has been estimated on the increase of inhabited property, but this may be to a slight degree fallacious, as at Haverton Hill and Port Clarence there is, I think, an increase of population in the existing dwellings. 46 new houses have been certified during the year. The new property built is of a substantial character, the cottages of a good class, and the larger houses well built. Great attention is given by the Plans Committee to the drainage and air spaces. The estimated population is 12670. The population in the purely agricultural part of the district is almost stationary or slightly less, while the manufacturing and residential parts is steadily increasing.

The drainage of the district has been carefully watched during the year, and most of the sewers periodically flushed. A large flushing chamber has been erected at the head of the Norton main sewer. Ventilating shafts are being erected in the different sewers, where thought advisable, to encourage currents of fresh air through them. During the year there were two long droughts, and during that time the sewers were frequently flushed, and carbolic acid poured down them.

The scavenging is done by the Authority in most of the populous places ; and the ash-closet system is gradually being completed. The contracts are being let to the Scavenging Contractors on the condition that the receptacles must be cleansed every seven days, and I would like to urge the necessity of these terms being enforced by the Inspector. He should look closely to this requirement, as the receptacles are only made to accommodate a limited amount of nightsoil, and if neglected become a dangerous and serious nuisance. A great many nuisances have been remedied, but there is still old property needing the attention of the Inspector, especially in the old villages, where scavenging by contract has been introduced. In these villages many of the large open ashpits and privies, which are close to the dwelling-houses, and causing a great nuisance, might be removed and the more cleanly system introduced.

The adoption of the Dairy and Cowsheds Act has improved the housing of the cows and cleanliness of the byers, but there are still some in the district to enlarge and improve; these have been served with notice to do the work, and time given to the owners, in order that the work may be done when the cattle are out at grass.

On several occasions during the year the Inspector was asked by owners of carcasses to inspect them, some of these were destroyed. As there was no seclusion in any of the cases legal action was not deemed advisable. The Slaughter-houses have been kept clean, and have been inspected at times by the Inspector and myself.

The only Lodging House in the district is at Wolviston ; it has been satisfactory.

The water supply in the district has been good during the year ; the whole of the large villages are supplied by the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Company. The water is good and wholesome. At one time in the summer it was cloudy and caused a little alarm among the people. I had a sample taken from the tap at three different parts of the district, and found that the analyses were the same, although cloudy and disagreeable looking it was quite wholesome. Since that time the Water Board have taken steps to put down filter beds to filter the whole of the supply. The public supply has been taken by nearly all the inhabitants of Billingham. Your Authority have decided to keep one of the pumps in the

village in order, to meet casual wants. The well at Thorpe has given a suspicious analysis since a change took place in the drainage. Your Authority, at the instance of the Parish Council, have decided to sink a well in the middle of the village. The rest of the public pumps have met the requirements of the villages.

The Authority had the use of the Middlesbrough Sanatorium until an epidemic occurred in that town which took up all the accommodation; consequently, for some months we had no place to send our infectious cases. Your Authority have now a satisfactory contract with the Stockton-on-Tees Corporation, and the cases are being removed to their Sanatorium.

Twenty-six cases were removed to the Infectious Hospital during the year, but many more would have been removed had the difficulty not occurred in the accommodation.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 210, including four occurring within the district which belonged to other districts, and excluding two which died in other districts belonging to this district. The nett death returns are 208, giving an annual death rate on the estimated population of 12670 of 16·41 per thousand. The number of deaths in 1894 was 154, and in 1893 it was 194. The number of deaths under one year of age was 61, compared with 38 in 1894, and in old people above 65 years 55, compared with 27 in 1894. In the township of Billingham the infantile death rate has been very heavy, 25 deaths under one year of age out of a total of 54 from all ages.

The following Table shows the number of deaths in children under five years of age, and percentage on the whole of the deaths in the different townships:—

	Deaths.	Infants under 5 years.	Rate per cent.
NORTON ...	62	20	32·2
BILLINGHAM ...	54	31	57·4
COWPEN BEWLEY	23	10	43·4
WOLVISTON ...	13	1	7·6
WHITTON ...	21	10	47·6
EAGLESCLIFFE ...	15	4	26·6
AGRICULTURAL ...	22	4	18·1

The number of births registered during the year was 345, giving a birth rate of 27·2 per thousand. There were 135 more births than deaths.

SCARLATINA.—This disease was in this district during the whole of the year, and was in serious numbers in Norton and Billingham the whole of the year—84 cases being notified in Norton and 95 in Billingham. Nearly the whole of the cases notified in Billingham occurred at Haverton Hill. 24 were removed to the Hospital. The type of the disease was of an extremely mild character—only causing death in four cases. Many cases were never detected, nor were they suspected by the parents; the existence of the disease being discovered either at home or at school when they cast their skin.

DIPHTHERIA had three cases notified, with one death. Two of these cases were in Norton, between the White Swan Inn and Congregational Chapel. I had recommended the main sewer to be examined, and since have had the whole of the property in Grange Terrace inspected; and existing sanitary defects in this neighbourhood I hope to get remedied.

TYPHOID FEVER—There were 40 cases of this disease notified in the district during the year, causing five deaths, 29 of which were at Carlton Ironworks. The disease assumed an epidemic form at Carlton Ironworks in the autumn, caused by the soft ground in the unmade back streets being saturated with sewage, nightsoil, and decomposing matter. The Authority served notices to have this condition remedied, but the work has not yet been done. It should certainly be carried out at once, and avoid the occurrence of such a dangerous epidemic being repeated. The rest of the cases were scattered over the district; and any suspicious condition on the premises was remedied.

TYPHUS FEVER AND SMALLPOX.—I am glad to report a freedom from those diseases.

WHOOPING COUGH caused five deaths in young children in different parts of the district. It was very prevalent in the Eastern part of the district.

DIARRHŒA was very prevalent during the second period of hot weather which we had in the autumn, although during the first period of hot weather it did not exist. On enquiring into some of the cases I came to the conclusion that the milk was a likely cause for it. The cows had been put on to very flush fogs, and the milk caused Diarrhœa in calves—especially in some calves which were sucking their mothers, and I have no doubt that milk which might produce Diarrhœa in the calves would also do so on human beings.

INFLUENZA.—This disease was very prevalent in the spring, especially in the Eastern portion of the district, causing death in five cases.

The deaths classed in Table A as Other Diseases, show a great increase on the year 1894. This increase is largely due to the number of deaths caused by the severe winter and very hot summer; extremes of temperature always affecting the delicate—especially the feeble, old and the weakly young.

NORTON.

Census population, 3789; estimated population, 4025. Births, 98; deaths, 62; annual death rate, 15·4.

An extensive epidemic of Scarlatina has affected the village during the year—84 cases being notified, causing death in one case. In the earlier part of the epidemic I was able to remove the cases, and kept the disease in check, but when this means of isolation was taken away it made headway, and I think will exhaust itself. The cases are of an extremely mild type. Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, all in the neighbourhood of Grange Terrace. I have drawn your Authority's attention to this, and recommended certain sanitary improvements, viz., that a main sewer should be put in behind the houses, and do away with the drains coming through either the houses or passages adjoining, that ash-pans should be used for the scavenging, and do away with the open ashpits and privies which at present exist. The ash-pans being preferable owing to the material having to be conveyed either through passages or the house.

Typhoid Fever has had five cases notified, causing no deaths. The cases were spasmodic and no spreading took place.

The streets have been kept clean by the Highway Board, and the village is tidy. Calf Fallow Lane has been paved, channelled and flagged. The lighting has been attended to well, and increased where it was deemed advisable, to meet the enlargement of the village.

On the outbreak of Diphtheria the Authority thought it wise to examine the main sewer running down Stockton Road, this was done and proved satisfactory. The tank has been constructed in Page Terrace, but will need a little alteration before its full benefit can be attained.

The scavenging was not very satisfactorily done, especially during the hot weather in the autumn, so the Authority had to take it over from the Contractor and do it.

A great improvement has been made in some of the old dwelling-houses—both small and large ones.

BILLINGHAM

(INCLUDING HAVERTON HILL AND NEW COTTAGES.)

Census population, 2649; estimated population, 2810. Births, 87; deaths, 54; annual death rate, 19·2.

A serious and extensive epidemic of mild Scarlatina affected Haverton Hill, with a few cases in Billingham—95 being notified, and three deaths registered. Owing to the construction of many of the houses isolation was almost impossible, and not being able to get the earlier cases removed the disease rapidly got a complete hold of the village and will exhaust itself. Typhoid Fever only caused death in one case at an isolated farm house, and three cases only were notified. This is a great improvement on what existed before the sanitary improvements were done.

The sewers have acted well, but needed frequent flushing to clean them. The scavenging was done satisfactorily, both at Haverton Hill and Billingham.

The village of Billingham has been lighted with gas supplied by Stockton-on-Tees Corporation; and the lighting at Haverton Hill by oil lamps has acted well. The water supply to the whole township has been satisfactory. The water mains have been extended to the new houses along Wolviston Road. A new sewer is contemplated to accommodate this property.

A great improvement has been made in the road leading from Billingham to Haverton Hill by widening it, and now it will be possible to have a footpath to accommodate the numerous workmen who travel down this road to their work.

COWPEN BEWLEY (INCLUDING PORT CLARENCE.)

Census population, 1057; estimated population, 1066. Births, 40; deaths, 23; annual death rate, 21·5.

Measles were very prevalent at Port Clarence in the spring, causing three deaths; and Influenza at the same period of year caused three deaths.

The sanitary condition at Port Clarence has been satisfactory. The sewers have acted well, and the scavenging been satisfactory. The water supply has been good.

The village of Cowpen has been healthy during the year. The water supply is improved by a new pump, and surface water better accommodated by some new gullies.

Extensive works are to be established ; and large extensions in existing works in this township, as a result of the salt industry.

WOLVISTON.

Census population, 585 ; estimated population, 590. Births, 16 ; deaths, 13 ; annual death rate, 23·7.

The death rate is very high, but from the usual cause, that is deaths in very old people. The village is a favourite place for old people to retire to, therefore the proportion of old ages is very large, and consequently affects the death rate. One death from Whooping Cough was registered, and one case of Scarlatina notified.

The branch sewers, I believe, get foul at times, owing to the small amount of water running in them ; and I would suggest that frequent flushings should take place at proper times, when the beck is full of water, to cleanse them. The sewers can only be flushed when the beck is full, for at other times the sewage would cause a serious nuisance. If the sewers were so cleansed, I think that it would tend to abate the serious nuisance which occurs at the sewer outfalls at times when there is little water in the beck. Ventilating shafts have been erected at the terminal ends of the sewers. The pumps have acted well, but needed reparation at times.

The Stockton-on-Tees Corporation have extended their gas mains to this village.

WHITTON (INCLUDING CARLTON IRONWORKS.)

Census population, 1081 ; estimated population, 1091. Births, 34 ; deaths, 15 ; annual death rate, 19·2.

The village of Carlton Ironworks has again been seriously affected with Typhoid Fever—29 cases being notified, and three deaths registered. The disease became epidemic in the autumn. The cause of it I have referred to previously. This village has none of its streets made, and the soft material where the nightsoil is thrown I believe is saturated with sewage. The old part of the village still has the open ashpits and privies.

The water supply is improved by the erection of more stand pipes. The sewers have worked well.

The village of Whitton has been very healthy.

EAGLESCLIFFE.

Census population, 791 ; estimated population, 990. Births, 26 ; deaths, 15 ; annual death rate, 10·4.

No death from infectious disease has been registered, and only one case of Scarlatina, and one case of Typhoid notified.

In the old village the Authority are taking steps to get the old ashpits, many of which are very large and close to the dwellings, done away with, and ash-closets or pans, where the nightsoil has to come through the houses, substituted. This can now be conveniently done, as there is a Scavenging Contractor to attend to the regular cleansing.

The water supply has been sufficient, but all the houses have not taken advantage of the public supply yet. The sewers have acted well.

The village is steadily increasing ; close to Eaglescliffe Station houses of a good class have been built and occupied during the year, and others are in the course of erection.

AGRICULTURAL TOWNSHIPS.

Census population, 2018 ; estimated population, 2098. Births, 44 ; deaths, 22 ; annual death rate, 10·4.

Two cases of Typhoid have been notified—one died.

The sewers have acted well. The one at Newton Bewley was relaid in the beginning of the year. The sewer at Thorpe has been extended down the Wolviston Road.

It is proposed to make an extensive alteration to Long Newton sewerage system, which will very much improve it.

I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of a sewer at Fairfield. All the houses drain into cesspools with no outlets.

There was a serious nuisance at the Hartburn sewerage garden, caused by the tenant tapping the sewer pipe and allowing the sewage to run into a pond. This has been stopped and I hope it will not occur again.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. BLANDFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the RU
to Diseases, Ag

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages.							(i)
	At all Ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	
NORTON	62	15	5	1	1	19	21	Under 5 5 upwds.
BILLINGHAM	54	25	6	3	2	13	5	Under 5 5 upwds.
COWPEN	23	6	4	..	2	7	4	Under 5 5 upwds.
WOLVISTON	13	1	..	2	..	3	7	Under 5 5 upwds.
WHITTON	21	8	2	1	2	4	4	Under 5 5 upwds.
EGGLESCLIFFE	15	2	2	1	..	5	5	Under 5 5 upwds.
AGRICULTURAL	22	4	..	2	1	6	9	Under 5 5 upwds.
								Under 5 5 upwds.
								Under 5 5 upwds.
								Under 5 5 upwds.
								Under 5 5 upwds.
								Under 5 5 upwds.
Totals ..	210	61	19	10	8	57	55	Under 5 5 upwds.
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into								
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	Under 5 5 upwds.
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	Under 5 5 upwds.

ity from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

unt in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS
1895, in the Rural District Council of Stock

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases known		
(a)	Census, 1891. (b)	Estima- ted to middle of 1895. (c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3
NORTON	3789	4025	98	Under 5 5 upwds.		17 67	1 2
BILLINGHAM	2649	2810	87	Under 5 5 upwds.		35 60	
COWPEN	1057	1066	40	Under 5 5 upwds.		3 4	
WOLVISTON	585	590	16	Under 5 5 upwds.		1	
WHITTON	1081	1091	34	Under 5 5 upwds.			
EGGLESCLIFFE	791	990	26	Under 5 5 upwds.		2	
AGRICULTURAL	2018	2098	44	Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
				Under 5 5 upwds.			
TOTALS	11970	12670	345	Under 5 5 upwds.		55 134	1 2

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory for the Diseases mentioned in the columns with blank headings the names of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District—Middlesex and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Middlesbrough.

Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

in the District—Yes. Since when?—Passing of Act. Besides the above-
 what are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State
 ough Sanatorium. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated;

